

# Education Committee Report

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Work, work, work and some more work! Yes-that is what we all left behind at our offices and we can rest assured that is what will be waiting for us when we return. This week; however, our focus can be on relaxing, networking, and learning in a comfortable environment and simply enjoying being in the company of other professionals who go through the same day to day hustle that you go through. That's right - you are home for the week. You have your extended family here and ready to help in any way that we can.

With this being my first term on the board, I was really surprised at just how much work goes on behind the scenes in order to get a conference like this up and running. Let me be the first to assure you that your evaluation forms are not only appreciated, but are used a lot during the preparation phase. All suggestions and comments, both the good and the bad, are discussed in detail and are used as a tool in order to help us plan a better conference for the upcoming year. I can guarantee you that there was a tremendous amount of time and consideration spent in almost every aspect of planning this year's conference. We listened to the membership when they voiced their opinion about needing speakers that not only bring them the information they need, but do it in a way as to help keep you engaged and able to understand. All speakers were researched and hand picked as being the speakers we thought would give you what you were looking for. The theme for this year's conference is Communicating Court Leadership Skills. Communication is such an important part of almost every job, but in ours specifically. We have to be able to communicate effectively and efficiently. Plus we have to be able to communicate with so many different departments all at the same time. We truly hope you are able to walk away from this year's conference with a new confidence and a complete understanding of how to improve your court leadership skills.

I know that everyone takes time to thank the people working on their committee, but I have to say after seeing first-hand how much is involved with being on this committee, I truly commend them for the time and effort that they have given to this association. There are so many things that have to be taken care of. For example: the hotel, rooms, food, speakers, travel plans, agenda prepared, conference materials put together - the list just goes on and on. There is no way that we could put on a conference like this without the dedication of members like Cynthia DeJean and Sharon Jaquess, Co-Chairs for the Education Committee. They worked together as a team along with our other devoted members: Nora Anderson, Sylvia Buitron, Aleida Castillo, Jerome Coleman, Dana Cotherman, Mary DeGues, Socorro Herrera, Juanita Malanders Aguilar, Melinda Mata, Shannon McFarland, Sylvia Noriega, Monica Nunez, Gloria Puente, Karma Roberts-Ragster, Susie Saenz, Jackie Struss and Karen Warr. Thank you! We appreciate all the hard work you all have put forth and we look forward to enjoying this week and seeing your hard work pay off! Have a fabulous week!

**Brandi Loya, Board Liaison for the Education Committee**